



April 12, 2006

MOST VALUABLE VOICE AWARDS

Family Voices Network is proud to announce the first **"Most Valuable Voice (M.V.V.) Awards."** The awards will annually honor the individual or organizations who have done the most to increase attention to the needs of children in Erie County with serious emotional disturbances and who exemplify the teamwork central to the service philosophy of Family Voices Network.

The three award categories are:

M.V. Voice for Public Awareness – the individual or group whose voice has done the most to increase public awareness and understanding. As example, this voice may be that of a journalist; a publisher, broadcast or other media entity whose coverage has been exemplary, or could be that of an individual who has publicly shared a personal story.

M.V. Voice for Family Advocacy – the voice that has done the most to advocate for families and/or youth, to promote their rights and to support families' and youths' full participation in their own care.

M.V. Voice for Community Teamwork – the voice that has done the most to encourage cross-community collaboration to address children's mental health issues, thereby making a difference for all children or an extraordinary difference for one child/family.

Award winners will be recognized on May 8, 2006, which is National and Erie County Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, at a press conference and reception.

We invite you, as a community leader, to nominate worthy individuals or organizations, welcome your further distribution of this announcement, and thank you for your contributions to children's mental health. Please use the enclosed nomination blank or submit the same information in letter form. Self nominations will be accepted. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 20, 2006.** Please contact Jennifer Klock at 898-3231 or Deborah Porter at 898-6134 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Weiner

Erie County Commissioner, Social Services

Philip Endress

Erie County Commissioner, Mental Health

Marie Morilus-Black

Project Director, Family Voices
Network

Family Voices Network of Erie

County is a system of care for children and youth experiencing serious emotional, social and/or behavioral challenges. It is a partnership of government, service providers, and community organizations with families to promote self-sufficiency of children and their families.

- Family Voices Network uses a proven collaborative wraparound approach to provide individualized, integrated, comprehensive, and cost-effective community-based support in a way that is sensitive to each family's needs and culture.
- Families and youths participate in all areas of planning and service delivery, each working with a care coordinator and "Child & Family Team" which may include relatives, friends, faith-based and other community support.



Family Voices Network
of Erie County

Please complete the information below and return your nomination
no later than Thursday, April 20th
to jklock@buffalo.edu, or by fax to 716-898-3536, attention Jennifer Klock.

Please use copies of this form or send an e-mail to make additional nominations.

Select the award category for which you are nominating:

☐ Voice for Public Awareness ☐ Voice for Family Advocacy ☐ Voice for Community Teamwork

Nominee

Position / Affiliation (if applicable)_____

Telephone number(s) and e-mail (if known)_____

Reason for nominating (e.g., successes, audiences reached, groups brought together, etc.)_____

Person nominating _____

Position / Affiliation (if applicable)_____

Telephone number(s) and e-mail _____